

hackers, terrorists and other criminals, provide a level playing field for U.S. encryption manufacturers, and ensure Constitutional protections for all Americans. A number of my colleagues have been pushing for this type of reform for years and several competing encryption bills have been offered in both the House and Senate during this session.

Mr. President, as you may recall, I engaged in a colloquy with my colleagues last week which reinforced the need for Congress to act during this session to break the impasse. This is a difficult issue, not easily explained or understood, but it is a crucial one. Momentum has been built in both the House and Senate toward finding a workable solution. Congress must seize upon these efforts and pass a consensus encryption bill now or risk starting all over during the next session. Congress has come too far on this issue to go back to the beginning.

Americans need a sound and reasonable encryption policy that protects public safety, reinforces security, promotes digital privacy, and encourages online commerce and economic growth. Without the development and use of powerful encryption, we may bear the consequences of the next hacker's attack on the Pentagon's information network, a terrorist attack on the city's power supply, or a thief's attack on the international financial markets.

With over \$60 billion and over 200,000 jobs at stake by the year 2000, the House and Senate cannot continue to hope that the Administration will reach an amicable solution that satisfies the needs of all parties. I strongly encourage my colleagues to report out a balanced encryption bill that Congress can act on before the end of this session. Before it is too late.

INSTALLATION OF WILLIAM B. GREENWOOD AS PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF AMERICA

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I rise today to commend a fellow Kentuckian and my friend, William B. Greenwood of Central City, who will be installed as president of the nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents of America (IIAA)—next month in Boston. Bill is president of C.A. Lawton Insurance, an independent insurance agency located in Central City.

Bill's career as an independent insurance agent has been marked with outstanding dedication to his clients, his community, IIAA, the State association—the Independent Insurance Agents of Kentucky—his colleagues and his profession.

At the state level, Bill served as president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Kentucky in 1983, and was named the Kentucky association's Insurer of the Year in 1986. He was Kentucky's representative to IIAA's National Board of State Directors for seven years beginning in 1985.

Bill also has been very active with IIAA. He served as chairman of its Communications and Membership Committees as well as chairman of the Future One Communications Task Force. Bill was elected to IIAA's Executive Committee in 1992 and since then he has exhibited a spirit of dedication and concern for his 300,000 independent agent colleagues around the country.

Bill's selfless attitude also extends to his involvement in numerous Central City-area community activities. He received the 1989 Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award. He is on the Boards of Directors for the Leadership Kentucky Foundation, Kentucky Audubon Council Boy Scouts of America, and Central City, Main Street, Inc.

In the past, Bill served on the Board of Directors of the Muhlenberg Community Theater, the Everly Brothers Foundation, and the Central City Main Street and Redy Downtown Development Corporation. Also, Bill is past president of the Central City Chamber of Commerce and the Central City Lions Club.

Bill's professional endeavors outside IIAA extend to serving on the board of directors and serving as president of the First United Holding Company, which owns Central City's First National Bank.

I have complete confidence that Bill will serve with distinction and provide strong leadership as president of the Independent Insurance Agents of America. I wish him and his lovely wife, Leslie, all the best as IIAA President and First Lady over the next year.

UTAH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the noteworthy efforts of the Utah Assistive Technology Program, which has helped empower individuals with disabilities, allowing them to live more rewarding, productive, and independent lives.

An estimated 216,100 Utahns of all ages—approximately 10 percent of our state's population—live with a disabling condition. Assistive technology provides a means whereby these individuals can live and work in virtually all areas of society. Stated plainly, assistive technology not only improves the quality of life for individuals with disabilities but also enables the rest of us to have the benefit of their contributions.

The term "assistive technology" encompasses all devices that improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Such devices can be as simple as a wheelchair or as high-tech as an electronic Liberator, a technological apparatus that makes communication possible for disabled individuals who are not able to speak. Organizations such as the Utah Assistive Technology Program provide services that assist disabled individuals in the selection and acquisition of these products.

With the help of assistive technology, children have received a more meaningful and challenging education; adults have undertaken rewarding careers; and senior citizens have continued to live independently in their own homes.

The Tech Act, as it is known, passed by Congress in 1988, has proven invaluable to the realization of these goals. Under this act, Utah has established an impressive assistive technology program. According to my fellow Utahn, Ms. Corey Rowley, chairperson of the National Council on Independent Living Assistive Technology Task Force, the effectiveness of the Utah Assistive Technology Program lies in its ability to initiate and coordinate projects with all relevant Utah agencies—an integrated effort that transcends any one piece of federal legislation.

Prominent among its achievements is the creation of the Utah Center for Assistive Technology in Salt Lake City—a statewide service center that provides invaluable assessments and demonstrations of applicable assistive technology devices to consumers. This center also provides people with informative guidance concerning available resources to acquire these services. While federal funds from the Tech Act were crucial to the center's creation, it is now fully funded by the state. This is an excellent example of how Utah has been able to leverage a small amount of federal funding.

Mr. President, we must make sure that the Tech Act is reauthorized. While this act has already enhanced the lives of many Americans, a great need still exists. We must do more. It seems clear that the need for assistive technology in the coming years will increase as America's population ages. Moreover, we must take full advantage of scientific and technological advances that can be applied to persons with disabilities.

Congress will have the opportunity this year to continue a modest federal effort to empower individuals with disabilities to learn, to work, and to prosper. I hope that all my colleagues will support this program.

HONORING THE WRIGHTS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Lonnie and Regina Wright of Goshen, Arkansas, who on August 4, 1998, will celebrate their 50th